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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 57th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 164: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION UGANDA-RWANDA (continued) (A/48/636 and A/48/908)

AGENDA ITEM 173: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA (continued) (A/48/837 and Corr.1 and A/48/908)

1. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) provided details concerning the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) (A/48/636) and of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) (A/48/837 and Corr.1). As indicated in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/48/908), especially paragraph 7, the amounts initially proposed by the Secretary-General had been revised. The deployment of civilian staff and helicopters to the mission area had been delayed and the number of helicopters had been reduced from seven to six, thus decreasing the estimated expenditures; however, the early deployment of the second battalion had partially offset those economies. Lastly, the Advisory Committee had recommended that the post of information officer should be deleted. In the light of those revisions, the appropriation recommended by the Advisory Committee was $45,826,700 gross, as stated in paragraph 13 of the Committee's report.

2. He further confirmed that, in accordance with paragraph 33 of document A/48/636, the integration of UNOMUR within UNAMIR would be purely administrative in nature and would not affect the mandate of UNOMUR as set out in Security Council resolution 846 (1993). Lastly, he said that the Secretary-General had no objections to the procedure recommended by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 19 of its report for the period beyond 4 April 1994. Nevertheless, he wished to draw the attention of the Fifth Committee to the fact that the period in question began the following week.

3. Mr. BOIN (France) said that, while he had taken note of the decrease in some estimated expenditures, such decreases resulted mainly from the deferral of certain expenditures. He therefore he wished to know what action had been taken to comply with the requests contained in Security Council resolutions 872 (1993) (paragraph 9) and 893 (1994) (paragraph 7), in which the Secretary-General had been requested to consider ways of reducing the total maximum strength of UNAMIR without thereby affecting the capacity of UNAMIR to carry out its mandate, and to continue to monitor the size and cost of UNAMIR in order to seek economies.

4. His delegation supported the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 9 of its report concerning the cost of travel. It appeared that economies could be sought with regard to the transport of baggage; the question should perhaps be taken up in the more general context of the consideration of agenda item 138 (Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations).

5. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) recalled that the efforts made by the Secretary-General to seek economies were described in paragraph 8 of the Advisory Committee's report. For example, the civilian staff strength had been reduced and its deployment voluntarily deferred, and the estimates for air operations had been reduced by more than $3 million. Although partially offset by the early deployment of the second battalion, those substantial economies reflected the Secretary-General's desire to comply with the wishes of the Security Council in that regard.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.